

From the Editor's Desk



Esthetic implant complications and failures: the members of the Editorial Board of *Forum Implantologicum* are unanimous in their opinion that this unpleasant drawback of the otherwise mostly unrivaled success story written by contemporary implant dentistry in terms of replacing missing teeth deserves particular attention. Not only because esthetic implant complications are increasingly observed, are emotionally and economically traumatic for both the patients and clinicians involved, and are often difficult to correct. But also because this evolution carries with it a certain risk of discrediting implant dentistry as a whole. In order to both counter this potential risk and address this clinically highly relevant topic comprehensively, as well as keeping in mind the limited publishing space at our disposal, we feel privileged that the four authors selected all accepted our invitation.

First, Dr. Stuart Froum, who is undoubtedly a prominent expert in the field as he blew the whistle in the form of the remarkable textbook entitled “Dental Implant complications: etiology, prevention, and treatment”. Second, Dr. William Martin, who authored the internationally acknowledged “Esthetic risk assessment” checklist and who agreed to provide an update. Third, Dr. Christopher Evans, who is one of the first authors to alert the profession to the potential relationship between immediate implant placement and mucosal recession, agreed to provide a state-of-the-art critical appraisal. Fourth, Dr. Daniel Buser, who introduced the concept of danger and comfort zones when it comes to correct 3D implant positioning in the anterior maxilla and prevention of esthetic failures and who has extensive expertise in implant removal due to the many patients with severe esthetic implant complications referred to his clinic. As is concluded by all four authors, most esthetic implant complications and failures can be, at least in part, attributed to misjudgment and/or inadequate clinical performance of the operator(s) involved. This fact confirms once again the validity of ITI’s primary commitment to education.

A particular highlight of the present issue is the analysis relative to the evolution of dental medicine in general and to implant dentistry, dental education and the ITI in particular, given by a – if not THE – personality who has unprecedentedly marked our profession: Professor Jan Lindhe. Among the many reflections made during the interview on the occasion of his honorary ITI Fellowship, he specifically recognized

the ITI’s uncompromising commitment to education. Indeed, what an honor and privilege for all of us to be part of a professional organization that is considered worthy of membership by Jan Lindhe.

For the second time, the recently introduced “ITI-Funded Research – Meet the Researchers” section has its place in this issue as it clearly triggered a positive response from the readership. Hence we will enthusiastically carry on presenting rising research teams around the globe and give them the opportunity to provide insight into their current scientific endeavors – approved and funded by the ITI Research Committee. This time, the University of Louisville, Kentucky, School of Dentistry, is in the spotlight, presenting an ambitious project in the field of digital implant prosthodontics.

Furthermore, we also continued the Forum’s tradition of providing the readership with the popular Presentation and Photo Tips columns. Luckily, the authors do not show any signs of fatigue or wear – quite the opposite! The entire Editorial Board of *Forum Implantologicum* sincerely reiterates its recognition to the originators and hopes that they will continue to contribute.

Last, but not least, my deep gratitude goes again to Matthias Joesch, the Head of Communications at ITI Headquarters, for his untiring commitment and service to the *Forum Implantologicum*.

Urs Belser
Editor-in-Chief